

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 EB-08 INT-05 DLOS-09 TRSE-00 COME-00

OMB-01 /100 W

-----117042 211725Z /40

P 211610Z DEC 77

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1957

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS HALIFAX 0621

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV CA US

RSBJE: IN COD IS OUR TRUST: NEWFOUNDLAND AND THE  
UNITED STATES

1. DEC 21 HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERALD REPORTS INTERVIEW  
GIVEN HERE BY VISITING NFLD LIBERAL LEADER BILL ROWE  
WHO SAID HE BELIEVES MOST NEWFOUNDLANDERS VIEW SOME FORM  
OF TIE TO THE US TO BE AS GOOD AS CONFEDERATION WITH  
CANADA, AND REALLY PREFERABLE TO CLOSER TIES WITH  
THE MARITIME PROVINCES. ASIDE FROM THE FISHERY, ROWE  
SAID, NEWFOUNDLANDERS FEEL THEY HAVE LITTLE IN COMMON  
WITH MARITIMERS. THEY FEEL CLOSER HISTORICAL, CULTURAL,  
AND PSYCHOLOGICAL TIES WITH ONTARIO.

2. FACED WITH POSSIBILITY OF QUEBEC SEPARATION,  
ROWE SAID, NEWFS THINK FIRST ABOUT CARRYING ON ALONE  
OR JOINING THE US. CLOSER LINKS WITHIN ATLANTIC CANADA  
SEEMS TO COME THIRD OR FOURTH IN PEOPLES'S MINDS.

3. COMMENT: ROWE'S REMARKS ABOUT THE US SHOULD COME AS  
NO REAL SURPRISE TO ANYONE. BOTH THIS POST AND THE  
FORMER AMCONSUL ST JOHN'S HAVE REPORTED FREQUENTLY  
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ON THE UNREQUITED LOVE IN THE BOSOMS OF THE NEWFS  
FOR THE JOLLY RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE GIANT TO THE SOUTH.  
INDEED, JUST THE OTHER DAY MP JOHN CROSBIE (A RELATIVE  
OF ROWE'S BY MARRIAGE) SAID THAT IN HIS OPINION NFLD  
WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF TO HAVE JOINED WITH THE US  
IN 1949 RATHER THAN WITH CANADA.

4. THE VAGUE YEARNINGS OF MANY NEWFOUNDLANDERS FOR SOME SORT OF ECONOMIC UNION WITH THE US NEVER REALLY GOT OFF THE GROUND IN 1949 WHEN JOHN CROSBIE'S FATHER, CHESLEY CROSBIE, SPEARHEADED A MOVEMENT ADVOCATING SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. THOSE SAME YEARNINGS CONTINUE TODAY BUT IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO SAY THAT THEY CONTINUE UNABATED. THEY HAVE IN FACT ABATED CONSIDERABLY. MOST NEWFS ARE REALISTIC ENOUGH TO REALIZE THAT THEY WOULD NOT LIKELY HAVE GOTTEN AS MUCH IN THE WAY OF DOLLARS-AND-CENTS BENEFITS FROM WASHINGTON AS THEY GOT AND ARE GETTING FROM OTTAWA. AND WHILE NEW ENGLANDERS HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE FRIENDLIEST OF FEELINGS FOR NEWFOUNDLAND, THEY SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS AND POVERTY OF THEIR OWN WITHOUT ADDING NEWFOUNDLAND'S.

5. THE MORE SIGNIFICANT PART OF ROWE'S REMARKS WERE NOT THOSE REGARDING A POSSIBLE FUTURE NEWFOUNDLAND-US "ANSCHLUSS" BUT THOSE NOTING HOW, DESPITE THE THREAT OF QUEBEC SEPARATION, THERE IS NO PELL-MELL RUSH TOWARD A CLOSER UNION WITH THE OTHER ATLANTIC PROVINCES. IN THIS, NFLD IS NOT ALONE. EVEN AMONG THE MARITIME PROVINCES THE QUEBEC PROBLEM --THUS FAR AT ANY RATE-- DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE SPURRED MOVES TOWARD A CLOSER UNION. IF SEPARATION BECOMES A REALITY, ATTITUDES MAY PERFORCE UNCLASSIFIED

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CHANGE--BUT AS OF NOW THE DREAM OF A UNION OF ATLANTIC PROVINCES REMAINS JUST THAT: A DREAM. END COMMENT.

6. DRAFTER: JHMOORE.  
MOORE

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009